

FRAUD ALERT!

From the Office of Madison County Sheriff David Schenk

Top 10 Ways to Prevent Fraud in 2007

10. Don't withdraw or wire money at the suggestion of a stranger who claims you've won the lottery, found a lot of money or wanting help distributing money to charity.
9. Only hire licensed contractors that you've checked out with the Better Business Bureau, and never do business with door-to-door contractors or those asking for money in advance.
8. Have Social Security and other benefit checks direct deposited in your account; mail checks inside the P.O. or bank online; have new boxes of checks sent to your bank rather to your home; use a cross-cut shredder.
7. Don't keep your purse, checkbook, laptop computer or other identifying info in your car and, keep your car locked at all times.
6. Don't carry your Social Security card or checkbook in public, and keep your wallet in a hidden or secure pouch – not your purse.
5. Get your free credit report every year from all 3 credit bureaus (www.annualcreditreport.com or 1-877-322-8228) and consider putting a Security Freeze on your credit file.
4. Never sign legal papers, make an investment, or sign mortgage documents without reading and understanding what you're signing – no matter how much you know or trust someone. Get a second or third opinion from a banker, attorney, CPA or other trusted advisor.
3. Choose your Power of Attorney with care and set up a system of checks and balances so no one person has complete control.
2. Don't talk to strangers on the phone, at your door, or on the street.
1. If in doubt, call the Madison County Sheriff's Office – and talk to a live person!



**For assistance call the
Madison County Sheriff's Office:
406-843-5301**

January 2007